“Ordinary Heroes – Deborah – God’s Calling, Your Courage.”

 *(Judges 4-5)*

Our world loves heroes. From Marvel movies to sports stars, we celebrate people who step up and do something courageous.

Today we’re launching a brand-new series called ~~Super~~ **Ordinary Heroes** — God doesn’t just use perfect, polished, powerful people. He uses ordinary people who trust Him — and turns them into heroes.

Judges is a wild book — it’s gritty, it’s raw, and it’s real life

The book of Judges tells the story of what happens when God’s people forget God. It shows a cycle that repeats again and again:

* Sin → Slavery → Supplication → Salvation → Silence → (Repeat)
* **Rebellion** →  **Ruin** → **Repentance** → **Rescue** → **Rest**
* This is “religious reformation” not “spiritual revival.”

*Judges 21:25 sums it up: In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.*

* Our first “ordinary hero” is someone you might not expect — a woman named **Deborah**. Let’s dive in.

***Judges 4:1–4*** *After Ehud’s death, the Israelites again did evil in the Lord’s sight. 2So the Lord turned them over to King Jabin of Hazor, a Canaanite king. The commander of his army was Sisera... 3Sisera, who had 900 iron chariots, ruthlessly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years. Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help. 4****Deborah****, the wife of Lappidoth, was a prophet who was judging Israel at that time.*

**STEP UP WHEN OTHERS SIT DOWN**

* **We should celebrate, not sideline, the gifts God gives to women.**

**When others shrink back, God calls ordinary heroes to step up.**

***Judges 4*** *6One day she sent for Barak son of Abinoam, who lived in Kedesh in the land of Naphtali. She said to him, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: Call out 10,000 warriors from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun at Mount Tabor. 7And I will call out Sisera, commander of Jabin’s army, along with his chariots and warriors, to the Kishon River. There I will give you victory over him.” 8Barak told her, “I will go, but only if you go with me.” 9“Very well,” she replied, “I will go with you. But you will receive no honor in this venture, for the Lord’s victory over Sisera will be at the hands of a woman.” So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.*

**SPEAK FAITH WHEN OTHERS FREEZE**

***Judges 4:14, 23*** *Then Deborah said to Barak, ‘Get ready! This is the day the Lord will give you victory over Sisera, for the Lord is marching ahead of you.’ … So on that day Israel saw God defeat Jabin, the Canaanite king.*

**STAND FIRM & WATCH GOD COME THROUGH**

The tension of faith— we act, but God is the one who wins the battle.

**Judges 4:17–22 – read it yourself…**

* Jael — a housewife with a tent peg. She’s not a soldier, not a prophet, not even an Israelite warrior — but God uses her courage to finish the job.

**SEIZE the MOMENT God Gives You**

* Victory is not about human power —it’s about divine partnership.

***Judges 5:1–3*** *“On that day Deborah and Barak sang this song … ‘I will sing to the Lord; I will make music to the Lord, the God of Israel.’”*

**SING LOUD and give GOD THE GLORY**

*Psalm 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*

*Psalm 115:1 — “Not to us, O Lord, but to your name be the glory.”*

**Real heroes don’t point to themselves. They point to God.**

Deborah stepped up. Barak followed through. Jael drove the nail.
Three very different people — one great God. Their story shows us what ordinary heroes do…

* **Step up when others sit down.**
* **Speak faith when others freeze.**
* **Stand firm & watch God come through.**
* **Seize the Moment God Gives You**
* **Sing loud when He Gives the Victory.**

**You don’t have to fight for victory — you fight from victory.**

**So this week — Get ready - take your position.**
This is your moment to say, *I take my position. I trust my God. I will see His victory.*